



United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

May 18, 2021

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) urges the Senate to confirm David Chipman (Chipman) as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Chipman a dedicated law enforcement professional and a man of great integrity.

The ATF is in dire need of stable leadership. It has only had one Senate-confirmed Director since 2003, and it has been led by an acting director for the past six years. The scope of the ATF's mandate and the critical role the ATF plays in safeguarding public safety necessitates a strong and experienced, Senate-confirmed Director. David Chipman is ideal for that role.

NCADV has worked closely with Chipman over the past several years and can attest to his deep devotion to upholding the rule of law. As a gun owner himself, Chipman is a strong defender of law-abiding Americans' 2nd Amendment rights. As a career law enforcement agent with thirty years of experience, he is also dedicated to protecting public safety by holding people who break the law accountable.

Chipman is uniquely qualified to lead the ATF. Having served in several different capacities within the ATF over the course of his twenty-five years on staff, he knows the agency well. The ATF is popularly known for its role in enforcing federal firearms laws, but its mandate goes well beyond that. During his tenure at the ATF, Chipman investigated terrorism cases such as the Oklahoma City Bombing and the World Trade Center Bombing. He also investigated a series of racially-motivated arson attacks against Black churches in Boligee, AL. He has a strong grounding in the ATF's anti-terrorism and explosives work.

He also has experiencing managing complex cases involving gun trafficking. One notable example was his management of a case that busted organized criminal groups trafficking guns from Tidewater, Virginia to New York in exchange for illegal drugs. Due

to his exemplary public service, Chipman was awarded the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Safety.

Chipman has held a number of leadership positions at the ATF, including Division Chief of the Office of Public and Government Affairs in 2012. During his leadership tenure, he was responsible for executing the operational budget in all ATF field divisions. Chipman has experience working at all levels of the ATF, from field agent to leadership. He truly understands the inner workings of the agency, from bottom to top.

NCADV has worked closely with Chipman to close loopholes in Federal law that allow certain adjudicated domestic abusers to access firearms. He deeply understands the safety needs of survivors and has proved his commitment to protecting survivors in word and deed. We know that he will carry that commitment with him as he transitions to Director of the ATF.

NCADV very strongly supports David Chipman's confirmation to be the Director of ATF. He is a seasoned professional with experience in different roles of the ATF. He is a man of great personal integrity and a defender of law-abiding Americans' 2nd Amendment rights. He is a champion for survivors of domestic violence, and his confirmation would bring much-needed stability to the agency.

Sincerely,

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence